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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
BOARD ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

December 2, 1947

Mr. Charles C. Adams,
440 Arroyo Drive,
South Pasadena, California.

Dear Sir:

In regard to your recent query about the age of the San Gabriel Mountains, we quote you from "Geomorphology of the Southwestern San Gabriel Mountains of California," by William J. Miller, University of California Press, Berkeley, 1928.

"The whole mountain mass may be regarded as a great, recently uplifted, fault block, deeply dissected by numerous steep-sided canyons, varying in depth from a few hundred to several thousand feet." (p. 194)

"English¹⁰ made brief reference to the San Gabriel Mountains in 1926, and stated that they were uplifted in post-Fernando time.

"¹⁰ English, W. A. Geology and oil resources of the Puente Hills region, southern California. U. S. Geol. Surv., Bull. No. 768, p. 53, 1926." (p. 196)

"The older sedimentary series must have been subjected to severe pressure, metamorphosed, intruded and injected by large volumes of plutonic magma, and uplifted before later Cretaceous time.....

"Thirty-four years ago Fairbanks,¹⁸ referring to the mountains in the western part of southern California made the following statement: 'I believe that the great convulsion which upheaved and metamorphosed the older rocks and intruded the granite into them took place as it did in central and northern California between the Cretaceous and Jurassic. There is no break in the line of granites and crystalline schists the whole length of California.'..... This conclusion reached by Fairbanks many years ago seems not to conflict with any definitely known facts of the present time.....



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"15 Fairbanks, H. W., Geology of San Diego County;
also of portions of Orange and San Bernardino counties.
Eleventh rept. State Mineralogist, California, p. 119,
1893." (p. 198)

Since the above quotations are necessarily but fragmentary,
we would refer you to the complete monograph for more complete
information. Undoubtedly you will be able to obtain a copy from
your university or city library in Pasadena, or from the University
of California Press.

In "Los Angeles: A Guide to the City and Its Environs,"
American Guide Series, New York, 1941, we find the following state-
ment in regard to Mount Wilson.

"The mountain was named for Benjamin Davis Wilson,
who in 1864 blazed a trail to its summit.....

"Wilson's trail became popular with early hikers. It
was used until 1889, when a road was built by the Pasadena
and Mount Wilson Toll Road Company. This in turn was re-
placed by the present route." (p. 298-299)

The name very probably first came into usage, later becoming
fixed, through local custom. We find no exact date of official
naming, but conclude from the above quotation that it must have
been named before, or by, 1889. Mount Wilson is shown within
Angeles National Forest on the United States Department of Agri-
culture forest map of this area.

We hope the above information will meet your requirements.

Sincerely yours,

Gordon E. Reckord

Gordon E. Reckord
Chief, Research Division.

FLJ:er
cc:

General ✓
Reading
Inquiries

